

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

including environmental epidemiological studies, training and awareness programmes.

Arms for Wildlife Preservation Department

1429. SHRI ABANI ROY:

SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Wildlife Preservation Department is ill-equipped to conduct raids or to protect the various wildlife sanctuaries;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have been actively considering to equip the enforcement teams of Wildlife Preservation Department with arms to conduct raids or to protect the wildlife properties and if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Protection and conservation of wildlife is the responsibility of the State Governments. Ban on recruitment of forestry and wildlife personnel has adversely affected the protection efforts both within and outside the protected areas. Lack of effective communication network, inadequate mobility and sophisticated arms further compound this situation. There is also need for upgrading skill in intelligence gathering, investigation and prosecution of cases.

(c) Government of India provides financial assistance to the State Governments for procuring arms and other equipment to protect the wildlife.

The details are as follows:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Project Tiger	187.00	397.00	482.00
2.	Project Elephant	49.70	46.38	45.28
3.	Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries	155.00	131.18	274.00
TOTAL:		391.70	574.56	801.28

World Bank assisted project in ICFRE

[†]1430. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any World Bank sponsored scheme is being implemented in Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education;

(b) if so, the achievements thereof in the field of research and extension of forest area; and

(c) the expected rise in afforestation and productivity per hectare?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE), Dehradun is implementing the World Bank Assisted "Forestry Research, Education and Extension Project" since 1994 for strengthening of India's Forestry Research Systems and extension of Research Technology at a total cost of Rs. 168.065 crores. The total expenditure incurred under the aforesaid Project upto March, 2001 is Rs. 159.65 crore. The activities undertaken/achievements made by ICFRE, Dehradun and its Institutes under FREE Project are given in the Statement. (See below)

[†]Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.